



Commemorating the Churches of Big Springs



—photos by Shirley Funk

United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church on US Hwy 40 in Big Springs traces its roots to the first United Brethern Church in Kansas. Rev. R.A. Caldwell formed the congregation in 1855 and then directed the completion of Big Springs' first church in 1856. The monument above, located in the churchyard across the highway from the ruins of the 1856 church, was dedicated at the 100th anniversary of the Church in 1956. On October 15, 2006, the United Methodist Church celebrates its 150th anniversary. Please see an article describing the Church's history and more pictures starting on Page 2.

St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Parish Church of fond memory would have been 100 this year. The St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery still forms the western boundary of Big Springs. Please see page 4 for an article and picture of the Church.

Bald Eagle Rendezvous

The fourth annual Bald Eagle Rendezvous will present a wig-wam tent town on the banks of the Kansas River displaying olden days crafts, techniques and skills. The increasingly popular rendezvous will be visited by scores of school children on Friday, Sept. 22, and then welcome an expected throng on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24.

Lecompton Historical Society

Please see Page 11 for the particulars of the new pricing for membership in the Lecompton Historical Society. An annual individual membership will be \$10 and a life membership will be \$100 starting on Jan. 1, 2007. That means a savings of \$50 on a life membership is available for the rest of 2006.

Constitution Hall

The 150th anniversary of the construction of Lecompton's state and national historic site, Constitution Hall, was celebrated during June's Territorial Days. The event marked the beginning of a two-year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration of momentous events in 1856 that included the violent Bleeding Kansas battles and the Kansas Territorial Legislature's enactment of the notorious "Lecompton Constitution," an act that immediately thrust Kansas into the international focus as the battleground for the slavery issue. Please see pages 8 and 9.

Big Springs United Methodist Church Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary

Editor's Note: The excerpts below have been taken from a more complete history of Big Springs United Methodist Church written by **Mary Saville**. The original version of the history was prepared for the Sesquicentennial celebration. A copy is available at the Church in Big Springs or at the Kansas Territorial Museum, Lane University Building, Lecompton.

October 15 Service Commemorates Early Kansas History

In 1855, the Oregon Trail cut through Kansas and weary travelers reaching the waters at Big Springs were eager to take a break from the prairie seasickness that plagued those riding in the wagons. One of the men who arrived with his family was a preacher named R. A. Cardwell. He had spent 135



—photos by Shirley Funk

The cornerstone of the 2nd church embedded proudly in the wall of today's United Methodist Church.

days driving a covered wagon from Indiana. The next year, with 13

stout-hearted followers, Rev. Cardwell formed the Big Springs United Brethren Church, the first U B Church in Kansas. This October 15, 2006, the Big Springs United Methodist Church, the direct descendant of that first church, is planning its 150th anniversary commemoration.

Rev. Cardwell was the proper leader for a church on the historic road between Topeka and Lawrence, a legendary route at times called the Oregon Trail, the California Road, Victory Highway or U.S. Hwy 40. He immediately became involved in Free State politics; Big Springs was home to the first Free State Convention in 1855. Rev. Cardwell is credited with delivering the first prohibition speech in Kansas when he confronted a doctor that brought whiskey into Big Springs under the guise of opening a drug store. Climbing upon one of offending



The Methodist Parsonage, still in good condition, stands east of the Church.

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(Continued from page 2)

barrels of whiskey Rev. Cardwell delivered such an impassioned speech against the demon rum that the parishioners charged the saloon and smashed the whiskey barrels.

1856 Stone Church

By 1856, a church had been completed. It was a small stone building erected by pioneers in a struggling community. Nothing fancy. No stained glass windows, no fancy pews, no great architecture to dedicate it to the glory of God. This rather rough building served the people of Big Springs for six years. There is some question as to the roof of the church building. The time and effort required to build it was such a drain to the people of the community that a regular roof seems to have been postponed for the first year and a temporary roof was used. Finally, so the story goes, the regular roof was added, after a year or so, but then the famous Kansas wind soon blew it away. The roof had to be replaced.

Two observers traveling through Big Springs in 1858, Julia Lovejoy and Rev. R. Cordey, described Big Springs and its church:

“On we jog, and fifteen miles from Lawrence we reach the town of Big Springs, so called for several large springs, from which beautifully clear water in abundance gushes forth. The place was too destitute of trees and shrubbery to suit our taste: some good dwellings and a church, once nearly completed, of concrete, owned by the United Brethren; but we were sorry to see one side of the roof lying on the ground, carried some distance by the force of the wind. This branch of Christ’s church are very numerous in Kansas, and as far as we have learned are devotedly pious, and doing great good.”



After 100 years the inscription on the back face of the monument is still readable. It says: The First Church of the United Brethren in Christ, in Kansas, now Evangelical United Brethren was built by Rev. W.A. Cardwell, in 1856, about 100 ft southwest of this marker. In 1956, this denomination dedicated this memorial celebrating 100 years of service to Christ in this community and throughout the state. Historical data preserved in box in foundation.

Disaster in 1892

Disaster struck on Oct. 31, 1892 when the church burned. This event seems to have thrown the church members into a state of disarray. There are no records that substantiate any activity in Big Springs from 1892 until 1896. The following year there did seem to be

a revival of sorts and the church again was at work in the community. In 1898 an abandoned church was located in Whiting, Kansas and it was taken apart section by section and moved by wagon to Big Springs. The church building was reassembled on land donated across the road from the original church. Once again Big Springs had a

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(Continued from page 3)

United Brethren Church.

In the 1920s and 30s members of the church formed baseball teams. It turn out the boys and girls were very good. They kept playing and around 1950, Big Springs had one of the best men and girls softball teams in the state. Hayrack rides, picnics, camping, dances, and plays put on by the Christian Endeavor Society were the highlights of the social life. People did not have to go very far to find their best friends, they lived right next door, or on the next farm.

In a town as small as Big Springs, there is a need for people to reach out to one another, and in the days before life got too busy, the Church was the center of the community it was the place where people got together, it was the social foundation of the community. There were no movie theaters, bowling alleys, museums, or other attractions in the small towns of Kansas, the church was the center of social life.

In 1922 a fund was begun to build a new church. The men and women of the church were committed to building a new church. Plans were drawn up with an architect, and after one or two false starts (the folks in the church did not like the first set of plans and returned them to the architect and found someone new), a design was approved. In 1932, the work finally began on the new church. Once again, the work was a communal effort, men and women from the community worked together to clear the site and to form the foundation. More than 35 people at a time would be working on the building site. There was no electricity at the site, everything had to be hauled in wagons, water had to brought from near by farms.

The masonry work was hired, but the rest of the work on the church was done by the men and women who would worship there.

1932 Dedication

On May 29, 1932 the Big Springs United Brethren Church was dedicated. The building was completed with no debt. One year later, a parsonage was added, with a debt of \$540, which was paid off by Easter Sunday 1936.

On May 10, 1956, a 100th Anniversary Celebration of that first small, stone church was held at the Big Springs Evangelical United Brethren Church. Bishop L. L. Baughman of Kansas City, Mo., dedicated a marker in front of the church identifying the place where the first U.B. church in Kansas stood. Dr. O. T. Deever, the General Secretary Emeritus of Christian Education, of Dayton, Ohio, presented a history of the church. Dr. Deever had served Big Springs as a Pastor as had his father and two of his brothers.

In February of 1967, the men of Big Springs and Stull churches organized the Evangelical United Brethren Men's Group. In a Handbook for Church Members, the

group's President, Bill Henry, wrote, "Let us remember that Jesus began His work with a small group of men. His call still challenges E.U.B. Men to continue his work."

When the church was collecting history for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary Celebration, its Sesquicentennial, interviews were conducted with current members who were asked about their memories of the church. What people remembered most often would be how an adult would care for and about a young person. When people spoke about who made a difference in their lives in the church, what they remembered was that an adult cared enough about them to spend time with them as youngsters.

This summer church members have cleared away the scrub and brush that covered the ruins, the remnants of the first U B Church, built of stone in 1856. A commemorative marker sits directly across U.S. Hwy 40 from where that first church was built. The current church and parsonage built in the 1930s during the Depression stand as a quiet tribute to the 150 years.



Members of the United Methodist Church cleared away brush and debris from the remnants of the 1856 limestone church, which stands directly across US 40 from the current Church.

St. Peter's Church Would Have Been 100 This Year

This year would have been the Centennial Celebration for the white clapboard St. Peter's Parish Church in Big Springs. It stood on the east edge of St. Peter's Cemetery, which still borders Big Springs to the west. The cornerstone was laid Oct. 23, 1905. The church was dedicated by the Right Rev. Bishop Lillis, D.D., April 23, 1906. The building was 64 by 32 feet with a 24-foot ceiling. The 1906 St. Peter's Catholic Church was built for \$3,390.93.

The architecturally traditional country church was the third St. Peter's Parish home. But more of the early history later. The dedication of the Church 100 years ago was a proud event. Many familiar names contributed to its construction.

A Generous Congregation

Contributors and Contributions as published in 1946: Rev. Patrick Smith, \$100; Theodore Kreipe, 300; John Engke, 300; Will Anderson, 200; M.A. Anderson, 200; Geo. Fritton, 100; Wm. Fitzpatrick, 100; Timothy Lavin, 100; Geo. Kupper, 100; Mathew Family, 100; Patrick Cummings, 100; Dr. Gergen, 75; Mrs. Berry, 50; Henry Engke, 50; Martin Werner, 550; Will Sulzen, 50; Theodore Sulzen, 50; Fred Sulzen, 50; Joe Walters, 50; Mike Werner, 30; J.P. Carlson, 28; A. Boursaw, 25; Fred Gems, 25; John Connole, 25; G. Noe, 25.

Frank Koeler, 25; Alice McGuire, 25; Albert Walters, 25; Adam Smid, 25; Edward Deister, 25; Geo. Kreipe, 25; Henry Deister, 20; Mrs. Hanora Anderson, 10; Theodore, Kuster, 10; Mrs. W. Ice, 10; J. Waggoner, 5; Mrs. Shuler, 5; Thos. Connole, 5; Mr. Kuster, Sr., 5; W.A. Thompson, 5; Geo. Facer, 5; Thos. Custard, 5; Will Grawel, 5; G. Koeler, 3; Will Brass, 2.50; Henry Koeler, 2; Mr. Bidinger, 1; Otto Bidinger, 1; Dennis Viles, 1; Mrs. McGlario, 1; M. Hart, 1; Mrs. Hogg, .50.

The 1859 Church

The first St. Peter's Parish Church was completed in Big Springs in 1859. The congregation had been formed five years earlier in 1854 in Lecompton. The small wood church burned in the late 1880s and for years parishioners would meet at their homes or at the office of Dr. Gergen

In 1878, Amos Custard gave St. Peter's five acres on the west edge of Big Springs—the site of today's St. Peter's Cemetery. A stonemason named Wallenbrush built the new church of native limestone and it was completed in 1879. After 26 years the congregation had outgrown the building so it was torn down and replaced with the

1906 traditional style structure.

A Failed Struggle

The Catholic Diocese of Leavenworth closed St. Peter's in 1970 because of a shortage of priests. For the next 14 years the congregation attempted to keep up the closed church but vandals broke in several times. A St. Peter's Parish Preservation Society was formed and parishioners attempted to revive the church. Finally in 1984 members of the congregation decided to take the church down rather than let it fall prey to vandals.

St. Peter's bell, cornerstone, newel post, several stained glass windows, choir railing and three religious statues are now in the Territorial Capital Museum at the Lane University Building, Lecompton. The last stained glass window and remaining furniture were auctioned off to members of the congregation in 1984.

The Historic Cemetery

St. Peter's Parish Cemetery is south and west of where the "little white church with its pretty white steeple" stood. An infrequent graveside service is still held at the cemetery when a member of one of the congregation's families dies. It's a pretty, well kept cemetery, ringed with native cedars. One of the oldest markers is that of Kate Garver, a one-year-old who died in 1883 while traveling the Oregon Trail.



In 1984, St. Peter's Parish Church moved many valued items such as stained glass windows, statues and its cornerstone to the Territorial Capital Museum before it was taken down rather than left standing to face inevitable vandals.

Free Event

• Come one, come all

• No Admission Fee

– Third Annual –

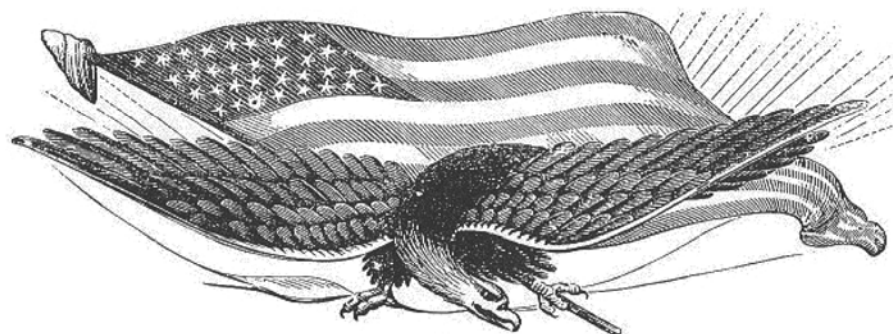
Bald Eagle Rendezvous

Friday-Saturday-Sunday

September 22, 23, 24 2006

Hours: Fri: 9-5, Sat: 9-5, Sun: 10-4

Bald Eagle River View Park • East Second St. • Lecompton



Sponsored by The First Santa Fe Trail Plainsmen, Lecompton Historical Society, and Constitution Hall State Historic Site.

Boosway, Randy Hittle 785-966-2695 powderpounder@aol.com

Information: Tim Rues 785-887-6520 consthall@kshs.org

Period participants:

Mountain Man, Plainsman, Native American,
Camp Traders, Old-style Musicians, Early-day Skills Demonstrators

Activities:

Period Living History Reenactments, Period Primitive Lodge Encampments, Period Trader's Row, "Flintlock Talk" Firearm Discussions and Demonstrations, Tomahawk and Knife Throwing Demonstrations, Flint & Steel Firemaking, Blacksmithing, Flintknapping, Beadwork, Tanning, Gunsmithing, Primitive Camp Cooking Demonstrations, Kids Camp and Games, and much more

2006 Lecompton High School Alumni Banquet

The Alumni Association of Lecompton Rural High School held the annual banquet June 17, 2006 in the old Lecompton High School Gym. Charter member of "The Wise Owl Club", **Helen Frye Hildenbrand**, class of 1932, was the oldest graduate present. Others attended from KS, AR, AZ, CA, IA, MO, MS, NB, NJ, NV, TX, WI. **Ed Turner**, Class of 1959, traveled the longest distance to attend from San Diego, CA. Special "Thank You" to **Earle Kasson**, Class of 1956, who donated the name tags, **Myrna Shaner LaCava**, Class of 1956, who made and donated the flower centerpieces, and **Dorothy & Bill Smith, Class of 1953**, for providing and operating the sound system. **The 2007 Banquet will be June 16, 2006 in Lecompton.** Everyone with a Lecompton connection is welcome. The 2006 Attendees are listed below.

If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology. See you next year!

1932 HELEN FRYE HILDENBRAND & Kathleen Bahnmaier Schneider	RUTH ROTHWELL VERVYNCK 1952 JANE ROTHWELL CHILDS LOIS HILDENBRAND CONDLEY & Leon	CARL BAHNMAIER ROBERT MORRIS MARY LOU SALISBURY MORRIS
1936 CECIL WELCHER & Johnetta	IRENE KIBBEE DARK MARJORIE HILDENBRAND	1959 FRANCIS "SONNY" FOLEY & Reta
1939 FLORENCE CONNOLE KREIPE & Gene	DALE GREGG & Wife DOROTHY POWELL WOODS & Ernie	ED TURNER KAREN FISH KASSON JH VESTAL
GEORGE SIMMONS	1953 JOHN SALISBURY	JEANIE KENT VESTAL
1940 DELMAR BARLAND	BILLY JOE SMITH & Dorothy	1960 PAUL BAHNMAIER
ANN DUNNWAY SHIELDS	1955 VIRGINIA SMITH ALLEN & Robert	CAROLYN TURNER CURRAN
ARLOENE DEKAT SIMMONS	ROSALIE ROGERS BANKS	1961 HAROLD "ED" HUDSON
JOE STAUFFER	ROBERT HILDENBRAND	DOROTHY CHINN MOORE
VICTORINE BARLAND VETTER	MAYNARD PERSON & Elise & Henry Person	GLORIA BAUGHER WARD
1941 MAXINE GLENN DARK	FRED SMITH & Raina	1963 LINDA VAN RIPER POORT
OPAL LASSWELL GOODRICK	WILLIAM TURNER	DONALD RAYBERN & Shari
LURA HOLLOWAY MCALEXANDER & Marq Christy & Freda LaDuke	1956 CHALICE ROBUCK ELLIOTT	1964 KAREN KELLUM ICE
1943 DOROTHY SULZEN CASTO	ROBERT HOLLOWAY	WANDA BECKER MEINHARDT
LES STAUFFER	EARLE KASSON	JOYCE SCHWEMMER PIERCE
EVELYN HOUK JENSEN & Don	BETH SHANER LACAVAL	DENNIS STAUFFER
1944 CLARENCE DANIELS	LARRY MATHEWS	1965 JOYCE BAHNMAIER BEHLKE
(Margery Sanford Daniels, Dec'd]	ELSIE BAHNMAIER MIDDLETON	LINDA STAUFFER
IONA HERSHELL SPENCER	NANCY CORBETT QUANNEY & Martin	GEORGIA SIMMONS TRAMMEL
BETTY CRADY STAUFFER	MARTHA RAYBERN SMITH	& Johnny
CHARLES WORLEY	KAREN SANFORD WERTS	CHERYL VANRIPER BUSEY
ERMA WULFKUHLE WORLEY	RICHARD WERTS	1966 MARY SKINNER STAUFFER
1946 JAMES "BUD" BANKS	ELMER ZEEB & Jo Beth	DIANNA CONFER GRANDSTAFF & Marvin
1951 BOB DARK	1957 BETTY ALLEN NEWELL	JANIE RUSSELL GRANDSTAFF & Melvin
LEAH BAHNMAIER SHAW & Ed	SANDRA BLEVINS SCHOONTHALER & Marty	
	KEITH NOE & Carol	
	1958	

Historic Constitution Hall Rededicated After 150 Years



Territorial Land Office, a Constitution Hall exhibit.

At 10 a.m. on June 23, 2006, Ed Hoover of the Lecompton Reenactors climbed onto the 150-year-old Constitution Hall's front porch. Red, white and blue bunting and flags fluttered behind him in the slight breeze. He was a sight, frock coat, stove-pipe hat, string tie, and bushy beard. Other in-costume members of

the Lecompton Reenactors troupe were scattered in the crowd on Elmore Street. For this instant Ed Hoover was Sheriff Samuel Jones of 1856.

Hoover's speech was tailored for this commemoration, the Sesquicentennial celebration of Constitution Hall—now both a State and National Historic Site. The theme of his oration was why Sheriff Jones built Constitution Hall. He also discussed his many roles in Kansas Territory such as the duly-appointed Douglas County Sheriff during the height of the Bleeding Kansas era and as a Lecompton Town Company Officer. Jones was a lawyer, real estate agent and developer/promoter of Lecompton. Jones, ever the entrepreneur, also built the log cabin "Governor's Mansion" in Lecompton. No longer standing, the mansion was located just west of the Demo HQ along Second St. in Lecompton.

It was part of a glorious and proud rendition of



—photos by Jan Peterson

Kansas Territorial Days' Momentos Display Case

Lecompton's annual Territorial Days celebration, sponsored by the Lecompton Historical Society and the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS).

Sheriff Sam Jones' Hall

Constitution Hall was built in 1856 when financial activity in Lecompton was reaching its peak. Samuel Jones erected the building as an economic venture. It was probably originally known as Sam Jones' commercial hall. He rented the downstairs as the federal land office and private law offices. The upstairs brought in revenue from large gatherings such as political meetings, legislative assemblies, court sessions, and the constitutional convention in 1857. After 1857, it was commonly referred to as Constitution Hall.

Most of the lumber for the building was produced at a sawmill that Jones owned on Kaw River bottoms just above

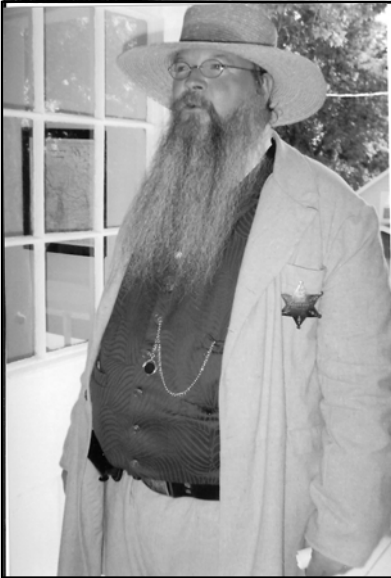
Lecompton. The heavy sills and the lighter members of the frame are cottonwood, as are the floors. The clapboards siding boards are black walnut. An outside staircase on the south side of the building carried people to the second floor. The present inside staircase was built around 1906 and the exterior one removed when the upstairs was remodeled as a lodge hall by the Odd Fellows.



An original artifact, the candle box from the woodpile.

In the 1986 KSHS report, permanent exhibits were recommended by Mark Hunt, director of the Kansas Museum of History. Some of his recommended exhibits still chronicle those years between 1854 and 1861.

There's a copy of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act map (Kansas Territorial Museum at Lane University holds an original). In the northeast corner there's a



Lecompton Reenactor Ed Hoover as Sheriff Sam Jones

rugged antique desk in the center of a mock-up of Colonel Moore's Territorial Land Office. The State Historical Society's report suggests the Colonel was instructed to build the land office, which in time became Constitution Hall.

And, of course, there's original infamous "candle box."

The new Douglas County Sheriff, Sam

Walker, who replaced Sam Jones in that capacity, uncovered fraudulent ballots found in a candle box buried at the surveyor general's office located adjacent to the Democratic Headquarters in Lecompton. These fraudulent ballots had been cast for proslavery candidates under the Lecompton Constitution.

Kansas Lectures

Constitution Hall has a real life these days. More than 6,000 visitors tour its two floors annually. And each winter, running from the last Sunday in January to the first Sunday in March, site administrator Tim Rues stages the KSHS's annual, six-Sunday "Bleeding Kansas Lecture Series."

The restoration of Constitution Hall could not have come at a better time. The years of 1857 and 1858 are

when Lecompton stood at the center of U.S. politics and the events the preceded the Civil War began building here. Keep tuned as the Bald Eagle and Constitution Hall will keep you fully informed of the Sesquicentennial of these hugely significant dates arise.



The prestigious Blue & Gray Educational Society's "Bleeding Kansas and the War on the Border" bus tour visited Lecompton Aug. 28, 2006. Leading the group of 22 historians, Civil War buffs, and educators was Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, Emeritus, National Park Service, and Professor Nicole Etcheson, Ball State University. Organized in 1994, the Society numbers 1,500 members, including former U.S. Sec. Of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Pulitzer Prize winning author James McPherson and best-selling author John Jakes. Pictured above, left to right: Len Reidel, Blue & Gray executive director; Jack Puett, Lecompton Reenactor as "Judge Mark Delahay; Tour leader, Ed Bearss; Lecompton Reenactor Alan Shirrell as "John Brown, Sr. and Lecompton Reenactor Paul Bahnmaier as "Justice Rush Elmore."

Donations to the Territorial Capital Museum

- Cast iron elephant coin bank & Brass Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe RR ashtray by Helen Frye Hildenbrand
- Whip cream maker, tin toaster, child's wicker rocker by McClanahan Family
- 1859 Ingram wall clock by Marjorie Tuckel Schmitt
- Lane University Charter & Zetageathean Literary Society Program by Roberta Cavadour
- Football autographed by 1950 Lecompton Rural High Team by Chas. "Red" Turner
- Book, Thunderbolt from a Clear Sky, "*The Irrepressible Life of Robert W. S. Stevens*" and the unabridged edition by Robert C. Stevens, autographed by the author
- Book, Rosie's Daughter (containing story about Jessie Rogers Jackson) and 1911 Lecompton High School Graduation Program by Shirley Rogers Williams
- Ellen Duncan painting of original corncrib on Spencer farm by Iona Herschel Spencer
- Book, Lincoln-Douglas Debate by Richard Werts
- Eisenhower Campaign Pin & Inaugural Address by Karl Kreider Memorial Funds
- Posters of Territorial Day Midway by Richard Thacker
- "CornKing" Corn Sheller by children of Pete and Edna Bahnmaier
- Books: Lincoln, The Lincoln-Douglas Debate, The Lincoln Reader, Brother Against Brother, Life Magazine History of the United States 1849-1865 by Paul Bahnmaier
- Album of 2006 Territorial Day by Shirley Funk

Obituaries

Bogner, Owen “Booger”, 76, of Topeka formerly of Lecompton, passed away May 27, 2006.

He was born Aug. 15, 1929 in Winfield, KS, the son of Jake and Jennie (McCaslin) Bogner.

He was a former member of the Lecompton Historical Society at Lecompton, Ks.

He married Doris Louise Sturm on Feb. 23, 1949 in Lawrence, Ks. She survives.

Other survivors include three sons, Owen C. Bogner of Lucas, IA.; David L. Bogner and James D. Bogner, both of Lecompton, KS; a sister, Betty Scott of Burden, KS; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial in the Maple Grove Cemetery at Lecompton.

Penny, Mildred L., 83, of Lawrence died May 29, 2006.

She was born April 30, 1923, in Worden, the daughter of Otto L and Ottilie L Schaake Johanning.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a member of the Lecompton Historical Society of Lecompton, Ks.

She married to Roy E. Goff. He was presumed dead while serving in World War II on Jan. 10, 1944. She married William H. Penny on Dec. 26, 1948, in Kanwaka. He died Jan. 18, 1992.

Survivors include three daughters, Cheryl L. Miles and husband Greg, Parkville, Mo.; Nancy J. Mauller and husband Darrell, Houston, and Beverly A. Dragastin and husband Mark, Virginia, Neb.; three brothers, Elmer R. Johanning, Harold L. Johanning and Glenn A. Johanning all of Lawrence; eight grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Burial in Memorial Park Cemetery, Lawrence.

Reed, Ruth June (Steinmetz) Ketelaar, 80, passed away April 11, 2006 in Indiana.

She was born Jan. 9, 1926 in Perry, KS., the daughter of Ray and Ruth (Baughman) Steinmetz.

June was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society at Lecompton, Ks.

She first married Norman Ketelaar and she had several children by him. She then married Randall Reed, who preceded her in death.

No services or other information received.

Steinmetz, Robert R. “Bob”, 77, died at his Lake Worth home in Florida.

He was born April 20, 1929, in Lathrop, MO., the son of Ray and Ruth (Baughman) Steinmetz.

He served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in Japan. He was a life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

Bob is survived by Pat, his wife of 54 years; six children. Robert, Jr., of Haneyville, GA; Debbie and Teresa, of West Palm Beach; JoAnn, of Royal Palm Beach; Steven, Sr., of Tequesta; and Phillip, of Wellington. Ashes to be scattered over the ocean aboard his favorite fishing boat, the “Lady K” out of Lantana.

Correction: This information was omitted in the last newsletter:

Steinman, Arthur Max was born July 1, 1942 the son of Arthur Wilburn and Darlene (Carter) Steinman Paslay

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Life Memberships:

Kevin Gratton

Carolyn Spaulding

David Cappleman

Kathleen Schneider

by Bob Hildenbrand

Jean Menzies Letcher and Rachel Isabelle Letcher

by their mother Martha Bartlett Letcher

Jack Puett

Christine Bahnmaier Benecke

by daughters Amy Benecke McLaren and Mary Gutzke

Jason Darwin Bahnmaier Behlke and wife

Linda Chmielewski Behlke

Elaine Bahnmaier Behlke Gearhart and husband

Richard Daniel Gearhart III

Adam Darwin Bahnmaier Behlke

Memorial Life Member:

Elsie Person Sharp

by sons Maynard and Henry Person

Wesley M. Norwood

by his wife Doris

William R. Hanna (Lavina DeKat’s husband)

Stanley R. Simmons (George & Arloene son)

George H. Simmons and Ellen B. (Frakes) Simmons (George Simmons Parents)

Last Four By George and Arloene Simmons

The Proper Indian Chief Tale

One of the problems an editor faces when writing about the Lecompton Historical Society's genealogist, Iona Spencer, is that she possesses so many ancestors who lived in Kansas Territory in the 1850s. It is no excuse but in telling one of Iona's stories of the 1850s, the Bald Eagle referenced the wrong great grandmother on Page 7 in our last issue. Here's the corrected account: from the Bald Eagle, Summer, Vol. 32, No. 3. Here is the corrected version:

One of her (Iona's) stories didn't make those (earlier *Bald Eagle*) articles. This one was passed down through the Glenn family. When her grandfather W.B. Glenn was a baby and his father Alex. G. Glenn had to take his grain into Westport to sell, he would be gone for a few days. The

mother Elizabeth (Zinn) Glenn had to do the chores. She put W.B. in the one end of the cradle and his brother Geo. A. age 2 in with him to keep him entertained. When she came back in the cabin an Indian chief was standing in the middle of her log cabin. It was hard times and his tribe was unable to find anything to eat and they were hungry and he wanted her dog to eat. She told him no, that dog was her protection when her husband was gone. She told him the neighbor had several dogs. The chief went to the neighbors and she saw him coming back leading a dog.

Iona added, "I don't know if I could have said no to the Indian chief like my great-grandmother did."

As last issue's article noted, for the rest of us in the L.H.S., there's no question that she would have. Iona defines gumption.

-- John Peterson

FOUR MONTHS AND COUNTING

2006 Membership Drive Last Chance to Join Before Dues Increase

The Lecompton Historical Society's membership drive is an important part of its sesquicentennial celebration of Kansas Territory. For the remainder of 2006 individuals can become members for \$5, families for \$7, and life and memorial memberships, \$50.

Starting Jan. 1, 2007, LHS individual annual membership will cost \$10, family memberships, \$14; life LHS membership will be \$100. Memorial memberships will remain at \$50.

*****Please Clip and Mail With Your Check*****

THE LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lecompton, Kansas 66050, is a non-profit corporation for the preservation of historical sites. We are eager for continued membership and new members.

Dues are \$5.00 per year for individual membership and \$7.00 for a couple's membership. The dues are from December to December. Life membership is \$50 per individual. Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Lecompton Historical Society, and mailed to Georgia Trammel, Chairman, 11 N. 2064 Rd, Lecompton, KS 66050

- () \$5.00 Annual Individual Membership
- () \$7.00 Annual Couple's Membership
- () \$50.00 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- () Friends of The Lecompton Historical Society \$_____

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Thank to the Kansas legislature and the Kansas State Historical Society, Lecompton's State and National Landmark Site, Constitution Hall, has been restored and stands ready for its next 150 years. Lecompton Reenactors' Ed Hoover, portraying Sheriff Sam Jones of Kansas Territory fame, rededicated the Hall during Territorial Days, June 23 and 24, 2006.

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